

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Calls on California Supreme Court to Allow Gays and Lesbians to Marry the Person they Love

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi issued the following statement after today's California Supreme Court hearing on Proposition 8, the initiative that banned gay marriage:

"As the California Supreme Court carefully evaluates today's legal arguments, I hope they do the right thing and allow gays and lesbians to marry the person they love. All Californians, regardless of their sexual orientation, should benefit from the rights and responsibilities that are part of marriage. To deny gays and lesbians in committed loving relationships the opportunity to marry is simply wrong. This is an issue that divides our state, and well-meaning people will disagree. Nevertheless, the course of our society is toward more equality under the law, and that is a good thing. Patti and I have been married for 43 years, and we think gay and lesbian couples deserve the same access to civil marriage that we do. It is an institution that outwardly demonstrates love and commitment while strengthening family and community bonds. The eyes of history are upon us, and I am proud to stand up and be counted today."